

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service disclosing and providing method  
implemented in a case where first service providing means and  
5 second service providing means located on a network have a  
dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:  
causing service disclosing means responsive to an  
inquiry issued from service utilizing means to send back a  
location of said first service providing means being under  
10 disclosure, to said service utilizing means;  
causing said first service providing means to receive  
a service request sent from said service utilizing means and  
to request said second service providing means to provide a  
service by using a location of said second service providing  
15 means being under non-disclosure; and  
causing said second service providing means to send  
back requested information to said service utilizing means  
via said first service providing means.
2. A service disclosing and providing method according  
20 to claim 1, wherein said service request is a request for  
acquisition of status information about a device, and a  
response to the request is the status information about said  
device.
3. A service disclosing and providing method according  
25 to claim 1, wherein said service request is respective pieces

of information that a plurality of said second service providing means send back, and said first service providing means aggregates the respective pieces of information that said second service providing means send back, and responds  
5 to said service utilizing means.

4. A service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case where first service providing means and second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:  
10 causing service utilizing means to request said first service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure;

causing said first service providing means to accept  
15 a service request sent from said service utilizing means and to request said second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and

causing said second service providing means to send  
20 back requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means.

5. A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said first service providing means controls a user's right accessing said second service  
25 providing means, the user relating to said service utilizing

means.

6. A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a  
5 response to the request is the status information about said device.

7. A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said service request is respective pieces of information that a plurality of said second service  
10 providing means send back, and said first service providing means aggregates the respective pieces of information that said second service providing means send back, and responds to said service utilizing means.

8. A service disclosing and providing method  
15 implemented in a case where first service providing means and second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:

causing said first service providing means to accept a service request sent from service utilizing means and issued  
20 by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure and to request said second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and

causing said second service providing means to send  
25 back requested information to said service utilizing means

via said first providing means.

9. A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 8, wherein said first service providing means controls a user's right accessing said second service providing means, the user relating to said service utilizing means.

10. A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 8, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

11. A first service providing program for, in a case where said first service providing program and a second service providing program located on a network have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and

said second service providing program for, in said case, causing the one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via said first service providing program.

12. A first service providing program according to claim 11, wherein said first service providing program causes said one or more computers to further realize a function of controlling a user's right accessing said second service  
5 providing program, the user relating to said service utilizing device.

13. A first service providing program and a second service providing program according to claim 11, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status  
10 information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

14. A program product comprising:

a service disclosing program for, in a case where a first service providing program and a second service providing  
15 program located on a network have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of sending back a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure to a service utilizing device in response to an inquiry sent from said service utilizing device;

20 said first service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from said service utilizing device, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a service by using a location  
25 of said second service providing program being under non-

disclosure; and

said second service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program.

15. A program product according to claim 14, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

10 16. A program product according to claim 14, wherein said service request is respective pieces of information that a plurality of said second service providing programs send back, and said first service providing program causes said one or more computers to realize a function of aggregating the respective pieces of information that said second service programs send back, and responding to said service utilizing device.

17. A program product comprising:

a first service providing program for, in a case where said first service providing program and a second service providing program located on a network have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a

function of requesting said second service providing program to provide services by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and

said second service providing program for, in said case,  
5 causing said one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program.

18. A program product according to claim 17, wherein said first service providing program causes said one or more  
10 computers to realize a function of controlling an access right to said second service providing program by a user related to said service utilizing device.

19. A program product according to claim 17, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status  
15 information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.